attending the English school for boys, Chengannur, was also very high. The number was perhaps the highest on record in the whole State. It was very undesirable that such a large number of girls should be put to the necessity of attending a boys' school. The need for a separate girls' school was thus very obvious.

The present dispensary at Chengannur should be converted into a hospital. The dispensary building itself stood in need of repair and should be improved soon.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Thomas, in regard to the Ikad *todu* and the Kozhi *todu* bridges, Government have already recently accorded sanction for those two bridges and the Chief Engineer is now carrying on detailed investigation.

What you say about the roads, you had better reserve till the Roads Boards are constituted, when you will have an opportunity of expressing your wishes before the Board.

You mentioned a bridge at Kozhanchery market landing. The Chief Engineer is having that matter under investigation.

As regards the bridge at Kollakadavu, I have already spoken on the subject.

As regards the need for an English High School for girls at Chengannur you say that there are 80 girls now studying in the Boys' School there. There are very many more at Mavelikara. The Director has taken up the question, and if he is convinced of the need for one he will make recommendations to Government.

I do not think the present position of Chengannur would justify the establishment of a hospital there—at any rate for the present you have got one close by.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 1·57 P. M. and met again at 3·3 P. M.

108. Needs of Shertallai.

MR. K. PARAMESWARA PANICKER (*Member, Shertallai taluk, Group I*) spoke on the following needs of Shertallai :—

The road from Shertallai to Arukutti should be completed. The roads to Arur and to Arukutti should be gravelled. A bridge should be constructed over the Chenganda river. If this was not possible, at least a junghar should be provided at the place and the necessary culverts should be built.

In order to improve the general facilities of traffic, particularly of goods traffic in the taluk, a system of cross-canals and cross-roads should be provided. The most important cross canal that was wanted was one connecting the Shertallai town with Pozhichal. This was a subject which was represented at several sessions of the Assembly and about which Government had stated that it was engaging their attention. If Government considered the proposal very expensive the ryots were willing to surrender lands free of cost.

Grazing grounds should be provided by Government for the feeding of cattle. Some care should be particularly taken by the Department of

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Agriculture to grow on these lands the best kind of grass suited to the soil of the taluk.

A model cattle farm should be established at Shertallai.

The Agricultural Department should conduct more investigations in the Shertallai taluk and find out the crops that were best suited to the soil of the taluk. The Director of Agriculture should be specially instructed to visit Shertallai from time to time.

In the registry of forest areas in the High Range for cultivation, preference should be given to the people of Shertallai.

Land-mortgage banks should be established with a view to relieving the indebtedness of the poor ryots.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Parameswara Panickar, all the roads and canals that you are speaking of in respect of Shertallai may be brought up before the Road Board which I hope will be constituted in a short while.

I do not know whether the Director of Agriculture will be able to discover suitable grazing grounds in Shertallai, where you can grow Guinea grass or Napier grass or more likely the latter because it is a harder weed. If you can succeed in growing that in a short time I should be only too pleased to see whether some land in that taluk can be placed at his disposal for making his experiments.

I shall also commend to his sympathetic attention, examination and report your request for a cattle farm in the taluk.

I do not follow the sequence of ideas in your representation on the necessity of granting agricultural lands to the people of Shertallai in the High Range. Is it because they are unable to cultivate more paddy in the taluk?

MEMBER: No, Sir. Because Shertallai is unhealthy and unproductive, people want to migrate to the hills.

DEWAN: I see it is another matter. I thought what you intended was that Shertallai people should continue to be Shertallai people and also have lands on the hills. If you go and colonise outside Shertallai taluk in the High Range or Peermade, or anywhere else I do not think you can claim any longer to be people of Shertallai. I do not think we can earmark lands for one taluk. But if the people of Shertallai apply for lands on the hills their applications will receive consideration.

The question of Land Mortgage Banks is not such a simple thing as some people seem to imagine. It is a matter which requires very careful examination. First of all such banks will have to be financed and there are only two ways of doing so. One is by the State, from its reserve capital, and the other is by the State borrowing in the open market and giving credits out of this to certain approved banks. As you know a law has recently been passed in England by means of which the Government give financial support to approved banks who act as agents for providing agriculturists or farmers with long term

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loans and I have already written for a copy of the Act to see whether we can borrow any ideas from it; and after the whole question is investigated the idea of long term agricultural loans may possibly take shape.

109. Needs of the Shertallai taluk.

MR. NARAYANAN KOCHUPILLAI KAIMAL (*Member, Shertallai taluk, Group II*) spoke on the following needs of Shertallai :—

The banks of the Poochakkal canal should be strengthened and a lock should be constructed. The two wooden bridges across the canal, one in the western and the other in the eastern part, should be repaired. A watcher should also be appointed to look after the maintenance of the bridges. Several accidents were now occuring owing to the disrepair of these bridges. A little girl returning from school once fell into the water through an opening in the western bridge caused by the damage of a plank. Fortunately the girl only lost one tooth. Nothing more serious happened. The bridge should be repaired immediately lest such accidents should occur again,

The Pookaithachira between Panavalli and Taikattuseri should be strengthened and a lock should be provided. This was necessary for protecting about 3000 paras of paddy fields in the vicinity against the invasion of salt water.

The Annala canal running midway between Panavalli and Chelattubhagom and across the paddy fields to the east of Thrichattukulam should be deepened and made fit for boat traffic. If this was done, there was also the advantage that the earth dredged from the canal could be used for raising the level of the road running through the paddy fields.

The Thrichattukulam—Chenganda road should be metalled and made cartable.

A cross-road should be opened from the Thaikattuseri Church to Kizhakkumakal ferry and from the church to Thuravur Nadakal.

Another cross road should be opened from Taliyaparampu on the Thrichattukulam-Taikattuseri road to Ulavaippil ferry and from there to the Kodathuruthu school on the Arur road.

The Shertallai-Arukutti road should be completed as soon as possible by building the Chenganda bridge and the necessary culverts.

Two bridges should be built across the canal falling into the Veluthullikayal.

The Shertallai-Arur road should be widened.

The Pullanchira and the Parasserichira should be strengthened.

Two ferry boats should be provided in the Muttom *kayal*. The approaches to the ferry should be raised.

A cross-road should be opened from the Ponnamveli market to Kelamangalathu *kadavu* and from there to Thavana *kadavu*.

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